

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02

FBO-02 OC-05 CCO-00 ABF-01 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CU-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161658 TOSEC 060018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN

SUBJECT: PROTEST REGARDING JULY 8 DEMONSTRATION NEW DELHI

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO

REF: NEW DELHI 9014

1. SUMMARY: I CALLED IN TIKKI KAUL SHORTLY AFTER NOON TODAY TO RE-ENFORCE THE EMBASSY'S PROTEST REGARDING DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE USIS LIBRARY IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 8. I INFORMED HIM THAT YOU HAD ASKED ME TO UNDERLINE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THIS INCIDENT. KAUL WAS AT SOME PAINS TO ASSURE US THAT THE GOI HAD NO DESIRE TO SEE INDO-U.S. RELATIONS WORSEN AND ALLUDED TO RECENT COMMENTS BY INDIRA GANDHI IN WHICH SHE EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE

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ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE VERBATIM POINTS I MADE TO KAUL
PROTESTING THE DEMONSTRATION IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 8. BEGIN
QUOTE:

A. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY OUR EMBASSY THAT A GROUP OF
SOME 150 PEOPLE BLOCKED ACCESS TO THE USIS LIBRARY IN
DELHI FOR TWO HOURS ON JULY 8 AND DEMONSTRATED AGAINST US,
SHOUTING VARIOUS ANTI-U.S. SLOGANS. ONLY AFTER THE EMBASSY
CALLED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DID THE POLICE SHOW UP. EVEN
THEN, THEY FAILED TO TAKE ANY ACTION TO STOP THE DEMONSTRATION
AND PERMIT ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY.

B. OUR EMBASSY IN DELHI HAS LODGED A STRONG PROTEST TO
THE MEA AND THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO UNDERLINE HERE
THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THIS INCIDENT AND TO
REENFORCE OUR PROTEST.

C. WE ASSUME THAT UNDER THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN INDIA AND THE BAN ON ASSEMBLY IN DELHI THAT THE
DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE WITH THE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE AND
THEREFORE THE BLESSING OF THE GOI.

D. WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN TRYING TO KEEP RELATIONS ON
AN EVEN KEEL. WE HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL AND CIRCUMSPECT
WITH REGARD TO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS.
WE HAVE NOTED AND WELCOMED MRS. GANDHI'S RECENT POSITIVE
REMARKS ABOUT INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. WE SEE THE DEMONSTRATION
THAT OCCURRED YESTERDAY IN DELHI INCONSISTENT WITH
MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS.

E. WE ASSUME THE GOI REALIZES THAT IT CANNOT ALLOW
ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST OUR LIBRARIES, INCLUDING
FALSE CHARGES ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES AND U.S. INTERFERENCE
IN INDIAN AFFAIRS, WITHOUT THIS HAVING AN ADVERSE IMPACT
ON OUR RELATIONSHIP. END QUOTE.

3. I ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS CALL TO DRAW ATTENTION
TO A SERIES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE RECENTLY BY INDIAN
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OFFICIALS AS WELL AS STORIES APPEARING IN THE INDIAN PRESS
ALLEGING U.S. INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I SAID
THAT THESE STATEMENTS WERE OF CONCERN TO US AND THAT
AMBASSADOR SAXBE WOULD BE TAKING UP THIS MATTER IN
NEW DELHI IN DETAIL, CITING SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF ANTI-U.S.
STATEMENTS THAT WE HAD IN MIND.

4. KAUL RESPONDED BY NOTING FIRST OF ALL THAT INDIA WAS

GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT SITUATION. DURING HIS RECENT PERIOD OF CONSULTATION HE HAD HAD A HALF-DOZEN MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER MINISTERS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. KAUL STRESSED THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE GOI TO SPOIL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE THEN CATEGORICALLY DENIED OUR ASSUMPTION REGARDING THE JULY 8 DEMONSTRATION THAT THE GOI HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION AND THE BLESSING OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. KAUL SAID THAT HE WOULD GET THE FACTS. IN THE MEANTIME, HE WOULD REPORT THE USG'S CONCERN OVER THE DEMONSTRATION TO NEW DELHI. I INTERJECTED TO SAY "CONCERNS AND PROTEST."

5. KAUL PROCEEDED TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MENTION THE EXPULSION OF WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS. KAUL SAID THAT SIMONS HAD NOT ONLY SENT A SCURRILOUS, MALICIOUS AND FALSE STORY ALLEGING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN PARTY TO THE ASSASSINATION OF GOI MINISTER OF RAILWAYS LEN MISHRA BUT ALSO HAD SENT AN ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT AND UNCHECKED REPORT ALLEGING THAT INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES HAD PARTICIPATED IN A RALLY IN SUPPORT OF MRS. GANDHI. IN ADDITION, SIMONS HAD BLUNTLY TOLD GOI OFFICIALS THAT HE WOULD NOT ABIDE BY CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS. NO GOVERNMENT COULD TOLERATE SUCH A VIOLATION OF ITS REGULATIONS AND THE GOI EXPECTS THAT BOTH INDIAN AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WILL ABIDE BY THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF INDIA.

. WITH REGARD TO OBJECTIONABLE STATEMENTS BY GOI OFFICIALS, KAUL SAID THAT HE HAD BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS PERIOD OF CONSULTATION A STATEMENT BY A MINISTER WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE HELPFUL IN THE CONTEXT OF INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. I AGAIN NOTED
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THAT RECENT ANTI-U.S. STATEMENTS MADE BY GOI OFFICIALS WOULD BE DEALT WITH BY THE EMBASSY AND HOPED THEY WOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENTION. KAUL SAID THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ANTI-U.S. STATEMENTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HOWEVER, HE HOPED THAT USG WOULD DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES, JUST AS THE INDIANS HERE HAVE TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN STATEMENTS BY USG OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSMEN. I NOTED THAT OUR COMMENTS AND PROTEST WERE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF ACTIONS THAT THE GOI HAD ITSELF TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO ITS INTERNAL SITUATION. KAUL SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE STANCE OF THE USG AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN MIND THE DIFFICULT SITUATION THAT INDIA WAS GOING THROUGH. KAUL REITERATED THAT THERE IS NO

INTENTION OF WORSENING INDO-U.S. RELATIONS AND NOTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. KAUL SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH WE JUDGE THE JULY 8 DEMONSTRATION, WHICH, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, WAS NONVIOLENT.

7. AS HE DEPARTED, I TOLD KAUL THAT YOU WERE AWARE OF HIS REQUEST TO CALL ON YOU AND THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH AFTER YOUR RETURN TO SET A DATE FOR THE MEETING.

8. IN LEAVING THE DEPARTMENT KAUL TOLD SPIKE DUBS THAT HE

HAD MEANT TO TELL ME THAT THE GOI VERY MUCH APPRECIATES THE OFFICIAL STANCE THAT THE USG HAS TAKEN REGARDING THE SITUATION IN INDIA. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO NEW DELHI THAT POLICE BE STATIONED OUTSIDE OF THE USIS LIBRARY FOR THE TIME BEING, ASSUMING THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE TO OUR EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI. INGERSOLL

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